

# Carlisle Theater

## Carlisle, Pennsylvania

**OWNER** – Carlisle Regional Performing Arts Center, Inc.  
**CONTRACTOR** – Houck & Co., Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
**ENGINEER** – Ritchie Engineering, Carlisle, Pennsylvania  
**DISTRIBUTOR** – TB Philly, Inc., Phoenixville, Pennsylvania

**Stone Repair**  
**Protective Coatings**  
**Water Repellents**  
 Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

### PROJECT TASK

Restore a classic theater located in the heart of downtown Carlisle.

### PROJECT SOLUTION

Repair and restore the terracotta façade tiles, and provide water protection.

### PRODUCTS

MIMIC TR  
 Terracotta Gloss Finish  
 Color Coat  
 Conpro Shield W



Top three and bottom left and center photographs were taken "before and during" and the bottom right was taken "after" the work was completed.



### PROJECT HISTORY

Since its founding in 1751, Carlisle has played a prominent role in our nation's history. Carlisle maintains most of its original town plan; and the borough's structures date primarily from the late 18th to early 19th century.

In the late 1930's, Comerford Amusement Enterprises commissioned a series of Art Deco style theaters to commemorate founder M. E. Comerford (who would have a Liberty ship named after him). One such theater was built in Carlisle in 1939. The theater changed hands after

Comerford Amusements became the subject of antitrust action in 1941, and appeared to be on its last legs by the 1980's. However, Carlisle was not willing to part with such a landmark, and had plenty of experience with restoration. In 1989, a group of citizens incorporated the Carlisle Regional Performing Arts Center. By 2005, the group had gathered enough funding to properly restore the façade.

Roofing membrane extended up the entire length of the parapet, leaving water trapped and causing considerable damage.

Coping was removed and new copper flashing installed. The contractors terminated the roofing membrane at a lower level, and treated the bricks with Conpro Shield W. This prevented water entry through the parapet, while allowing water vapor to escape. Shallow spalling of the terracotta was repaired using MIMIC TR. The original finish was replicated by using custom-matched Color Coat, followed by Terracotta Gloss Finish. Today, the Carlisle Theater serves as a cultural focal point for the historic town and its performing artists.